

Coins

The trading fever rises, as two blockbuster shows come to town

By Roger Boye

THOUSANDS OF coin collectors will be in downtown Chicago late this week for what could prove to be the city's two biggest coin shows of 1980.

One of the extravaganzas — the fifth annual Chicago International Coin Fair — is expected to attract more than 100 coin dealers from about 10 countries, all of whom will be buying and selling rare foreign coins during the three-day show that starts Friday.

"In 1979, we held the fair at a hotel near O'Hare Airport, and 3,000 collectors attended," said James Simek, the show's general chairman and a dealer at the Rare Coin Co. of America in Chicago. "We should do better than that this year from our downtown location at the Hyatt Regency (151 E. Wacker Dr.)."

In addition to the huge coin bourse, the fair will include an educational forum at 3 p.m. Saturday, and foreign coin auctions starting at 7 p.m. Friday, 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday, and 1 p.m. next Sunday.

Hundreds of collectible gold and silver coins, some worth more than \$5,000 each, will be on the auction block. One of the rarest is what experts believe to be

a unique 50-stuivers gold coin minted in 1809 in Holland.

The auctions will be conducted by the Rare Coin Co. and by the Superior Stamp and Coin Co. of Beverly Hills, Cal. Also, several coin organizations will conduct meetings during the fair.

MEANWHILE, the other big show — sponsored by the National Numismatic Network for collectors of U.S. coins — will be held on the same three days at the Conrad Hilton Hotel, 720 S. Michigan Av.

Nearly 125 dealers will be trading their wares, coins will be on display, and Numisco Inc. of Chicago will conduct an auction beginning at 7 p.m. Friday. The auction is expected to realize more than \$1 million in sales.

Successful bidders will take home various coin treasures, including rare gold pieces produced in the mid-1800s at now-extinct government mints in Charlotte, N.C., and Dahlonega, Ga.

The show's sponsor is a national teletype network that provides coin dealers with the latest buy-and-sell prices for rare coins.

Admission is free at both shows.